



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
MINISTER'S OFFICE

Information for the press

**Promotion of the project for electronic processing of drug
prescription drug data**

Skopje, 27 July - The Ministry of Health in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), tomorrow (28.07.2006) will promote the new electronic system designed to monitor the distribution and consumption of prescription drugs.

“With the implementation of this project we will receive a complete and integrated information system, which will connect the major stakeholders involved in prescribing and distributing drugs. It will allow for analytical monitoring of the implementation of the Guidelines in prescribing drugs, adhering to the legislation that regulates importing and distributing drugs, as well as the consumption of drugs. The system will also allow for better planning and allocation of resources for medication needed in the Republic of Macedonia,” stated Prof. Dr. Vladimir Dimov, Minister of Health.

“This new e-Health application will allow the Ministry of Health to not only improve its management of prescription drugs, ensuring that all those who need medical treatment receive it, it will also eliminate the ability to abuse the public health fund system and reduces the ability to sell illegally unregistered drugs.” said Mr. Dick Goldman, USAID Mission Director.

It is an electronic solution, which incorporates all of those who participated in the process of prescribing and distribution prescription drugs: Ministry of Health, Health Insurance Fund, Pharmacies, Chamber of Doctors and Dentists, Health care institutions and Doctors.

This project will enable monitoring of the entire consumption of drugs, which are prescribed, independently or by referral, on a prescription form, as well as monitoring the way drugs are prescribed, ensuring that the prescriptions follow the Guidelines on practicing Evidence based medicine (Evidence Based Medicine guided prescribing).

To support the project bar codes will also be implemented for every doctor, regardless of whether a General practitioner or a specialist, namely sub-specialist. With the bar codes, pharmaceutical portfolios will be established for every doctor to monitor whether doctors are prescribing drugs rationally. Bar codes will also be implemented for health care institutions from where the doctor practices, as well as double layer barcode labels to be adhered to all drugs on the positive list and barcode labels for all drugs imported in the Republic of Macedonia, to monitor the legality and quality of imported drugs

A series of training sessions were organized parallel to the implementation of the project for the regional offices of the Fund, doctors, Wholesale drug distributors, pharmacies and employees from the Ministry of Health.

This project supports the implementation of the Guidelines on Practicing Evidence Based Medicine, which will now fully complete the system for electronically monitoring the prescribing of and distribution of prescription drugs.